Pest Update (October 19-26, 2011)

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Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insects from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, instead please send a digital picture of the pest or problem. **Walnut samples may not be sent in from any location – please provide a picture!**

Available on the net at:
http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx

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Current information

Oh Deer! I have received a couple of calls asking what trees and shrubs are "deer proof." There is no such plant, of course. Deer can, and will, rub on almost any plant (as seen in the picture). Even food preference can change since if the preferred food sources are not available, deer will sometimes eat almost anything, or at least nibble on it. For example, spruce is not considered a preferred food source for deer – more starvation food - but last winter the heavy snowfall that restricted deer movement and they stripped spruce out of some shelterbelts in eastern South Dakota. I am willing to bet if you show this list to anyone in the Black Hills – where there is very heavy deer pressure in town - there are at least several plants listed below that probably someone has had eaten out of their yard by deer. With that said, here is the list:

Alnus glutinosa – European alder
Berberis thunbergii – Japanese barberry
Buxus micophylla – Korean boxwood
Caragana arborescens - Siberian peashrub
Catalpa speciosa – northern catalpa
Cercis canadensis – eastern redbud
Cornus sericea - redosier dogwood
Cotinus coggygria - smoketree
Forsythia - forsythia
Ginkgo biloba - ginkgo
Gledistia triacanthos - honeylocust
Ostrya virginiana – ironwood or also known as hophornbeam
Philadelphus coronaries – sweet mockorange
Picea – all spruce
Platanus occidentalis - sycamore
Robina pseudoacacia – black locust
Spiraea prunifolia – Bridalwreath spirea
Syringa – all lilacs
Viburnum – all viburnums

Apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) damaged fruit is appearing throughout the state. Symptoms of a maggot infestation are dimpled, lumpy apples (as seen in the picture – Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota) with flesh often turning mushy and containing brown trails or streaks. The insect overwinters in the soils (after dropping to the ground in

the rotted fruit) so the control right now is to clean up and dispose of any fallen and misshapen fruit. The time to spray is next summer as the maggot remains in the soil till early July then emerges as an adult so you can put the sprayer away.

E-samples

I received this picture from Bennett County asking for identification. This is a basswood (American linden). It is native to the eastern South Dakota and from there to the east coast. However it is planted throughout the state and I can find a few in almost any town. The tree is noted for the pale yellow flowers in late June that are very fragrant (and attractive to bees).

I also received these pictures from Minnehaha County with the question "Is this the emerald ash borer?" Thankfully no, I stopped by to examine this young green ash tree (about 15 feet tall) in Sioux Falls last Friday and it was not the emerald ash borer but our native clearwing ash borer. The exit holes on the lower trunk were covered with sawdust-like frass (insect poop) and the holes were about pencil diameter and round. The emerald ash borer does not have frass around the exit holes, the holes are D-shaped and about 1/8-inch diameter. At this time the nearest emerald ash borer infestation is still in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota. While we need to be on the lookout for possible infestations in our state, it is too early to be treating for the pest.

Samples received

Bon Homme County **Is this anthracnose on this maple?**

Yes, however these are no effective control for the disease at this time of year. Maples have several different anthracnose diseases that are due to fungi and usually we do not recommend control as the timing for control is difficult and rarely is the disease more than an aesthetic problem. If we have a drier spring next year most likely the disease will not appear again.

Gregory County **What is this plant? It was found growing in a fence line.**

This is common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), a plant frequently submitted to this office. The plant is common in windbreaks and fence rows throughout eastern South Dakota due to the habit of birds eating the glossy black

fruit and depositing the seeds beneath anywhere they perch. The plant is the alternate host to the cereal rust disease and a host for the soybean aphid so there is not much to recommend it and many good reasons for removing it.

McPherson County **Is this saltcedar or eastern redcedar?**

This is saltcedar (*Tamarix*) also known as tamarix. This is now considered a weed in South Dakota and throughout much of the western United States due to its invasive nature. It tends to out-compete the native vegetation along streams and rivers and tamarix often lines riparian areas. It is often confused with eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and the best way to tell a twig sample apart during the summer (winter is easy as the tamarix drops its small scale-like leaves) is the slender twig of tamarix is a glossy and dark green with very light buds alternating along it. Eastern redcedar will have a darker green twig and the scale-like leaves will not alternate but be 4-ranked with each pair opposite one another.

Minnehaha County FL1100126 **What might be wrong with Albert's spruce tree?**

The shoot growth was normal for blue spruce and the only noticeable symptoms on the shoots submitted as a sample was the loss of the older needles. Normally spruce will retain 1 – 5 year old needles and the sample had only the 1 to 2 year old needles attached. The information sheet noted that the trees were transplanted with a tree spade but not when but it is possible that the loss of the older needles was due to the stress of being transplanted. I did find some spruce bud scale on the sample but there did not appear to be enough to warrant treatment next summer.